

Central Region Fashion Revue Winners Ready For State

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
ALTOONA (Blair Co.) — Dashing from air-conditioned vehicles, which dropped them just feet from the cool corridors of the Ramada Inn, 89 participants from 11 counties began their day of 4-H Fashion Revue Central-Region competition.

They comprised a senior division of 38 members and a junior one of 51 members, according to Marie Kieffer, Somerset Co. extension director, who was chairperson for the event.

When the grand finale fashion show was over the winners' names were announced. They are Debbie Black, Jenn Black, Valeria Ciampa, Valerie Castro, Jill Clites, Emily Haagen, Jesse Koegler, Lisa Lieb, Judy Mains, Jenna Svonavec, Amanda Thomas, Erica Walker and Melissa Williamson. Amber Armogost, first alternate, will attend state competition because one winner is unable to attend.

The second alternate is Sara Weiland, third is Julie McMillin. Semi-finalists were Jennifer Afeldt, Sara Hilegass, Emily Koegler and Jenny Speck.

Counties represented by the winners are Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Huntingdon, Perry and Somerset.

Names in the junior honors group are Jenny Brockett, Lynette Chamberlain, Heather Christiana, Amanda Darr, Sarah Flannery, Heather Gray, Tammy Grissinger, Terri Grissinger, Jared Gordon, Carla Harpster, Julie Hoffman, Alecha Jones, Tracey Lieb, Samantha Maust, Jeanette Peacock, Christina Sanner, Heidi Shryock, Diane Stouffer, Erin Stroudnour, Vicki Swinnerton, Kristin Wagner, Clarissa Yablinsky, Amy Zuraski and Laura Zuraski.

Counties represented by the junior honors group are Bedford, Cambria, Elk, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset.

Judith Mains, 17, Duncannon, Perry Co., was introduced as the National Fashion Revue state representative. Mains was selected from the blue form evaluation.

"I've lived 4-H actually," she said. "You tell how 4-H has affected your life and how your are giving back to 4-H," she said about filling out the in-depth, blue form.

Mains modeled a 100-percent wool, lined, tailored jacket over a gored, black shirt of sport suede and a forest green blouse. "This is the first time I've tailored," she said. "This outfit was made with a lot of tears."

As variable as the participants themselves, so were the garments they had constructed, adding their stamp of individuality though the accessory such as a perky hat.

Some formal wear was constructed by the participants with years of experience. These stylish creations were elegant or fit for a grand ball.

There were trouser suits, dresses, and playwear proudly paraded by their owners once the tensions of judging were past.

Sixteen judges spent the day examining garments for construction, which counted 30 points; appearance and presentation, 25 points; and fashion, design and fit, each valued at 15 points. Judges were professional home economists and 4-H leaders.

Participants also went to two workshops. One dealt with how to accessorize, through a video presentation, while the other dealt with clothing and textiles.

The textiles workshop allowed the kids to test their knowledge in

a fun way by working as teams to answer the questions stationed at each exhibit. Various kinds of scissors and shears displayed were intended to provoke a good decision about when to use each and for what purpose.

How to point-press a collar during garment construction was another question to consider. They viewed the available tools such as a seam roller and a pressing ham, among other choices, and listed them from the best to the worst choices.

They also examined five t-shirts in separate colors, weights, and "care" instructions. After selecting a favorite shirt, they had to think about the basis of their decision.

Nancy Covert, a 20-yr. extension veteran from Jefferson Co. said, "The whole goal is teaching
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Some winners in the central region 4-H Fashion Revue wear formal attire. From left are Jill Clites, Missy Williams, Emily Haagen, and Erica Walker, who will enter state competition later this month.



Here are some of the central region 4-H Fashion Revue winners. Foreground, Debbie Black, left and Amanda Thomas. On dais, l-r, Judy Mains, Jenn Black, Lisa Lieb, Jenna Svonavec, Valerie Castro, Jesse Koegler, Amber Armogost and Valeria Ciampa. They will enter state competition at the end of this month.

Southeast Regional Fashion Revue Winners Off To State

CONNIE LEINBACH
Berks Co. Correspondent
READING (Berks Co.) — Myranda Caputo found herself the center of attention recently when she was chosen as one of nine 4-H Fashion Revue senior competitors to go on to the state competition. Caputo's ensemble was a stunning blue and black dress made entirely of ribbons she had woven

together. Caputo, 17, of Easton, was the last contestant among 61 juniors and seniors during the Southeast Regional 4-H Fashion Revue held at the Inn at Reading. There was an audible twitter through the crowd as the announcer noted the facts about Caputo's dress and jacket ensemble.

After the awards presentation,

Caputo explained to a crowd of admirers that she designed the dress after one she had seen in a fashion magazine. Since she could not find material to match her envision dress, she decided to create the material by using about 100 yards of black and blue ribbon.

Using Stitch Witchery, she adhered the ribbon to another piece of fabric, then sewed all the rows.

She then cut out her pattern, a simple, sleeveless dress with a bolero jacket, and sewed it.

For a little splash, she sewed blue sequins on some of the squares of the jacket and a cording of sequins around the top of the dress.

In all, she figured she spent about 46 hours on the dress — a one-of-a-kind affair of blue and black checks — which was a hit at Caputo's recent prom.

"It's really fantastic," noted Fay Strickler, the home economist extension agent for Berks County, as she admired the workmanship. "It takes someone extremely skilled to do this. Every year she comes up with something different."

Strickler also noted that the color combination is unusual. Though the blue of the ribbons is bright, it is toned down by the black. As the dress catches the light, different shading effects appear.

"This dress is one of the top quality pieces," Strickler added. "Its very unique."

Other professionals have also praised the dress, Caputo noted. At a show given by the Lehigh Valley Couturier Society, of which Caputo is the youngest member, the dressmakers there estimated a dress like Caputo's would cost about \$950 in a retail store.

Caputo, who said she loves sew-

ing, is scheduled to study fashion merchandising when she enters Mansfield University in the fall. From there she hopes to transfer to the Philadelphia College of Textiles. Her dream is to eventually open her own bridal shop.

"I love sewing," she said. "It's my life."

Caputo praised her 4-H leader, Bonnie Murray, with whom she has sewed for six years, for her coaching and support. Murray never doubted that Caputo could do the dress.

"Whatever she said she could do, I knew she could do it," Murray said without hesitation.

The last time Caputo attended the state championship, she wore a suit she constructed of ultra suede.

Lila Newhard, the 4-H leader for the Leesport 4-H club, was happy that four of her members participated in the revue, three of whom are boys.

"These boys are a real challenge," Newhard noted about the pants and caps they make.

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Senior winners are, from left, Carleste Hughes of Northampton County, Myranda Caputo of Lehigh County, Dana Rothermel of Berks County, Lisa Geschwindt of Berks County, Kristen Schickling of Montgomery County, Melissa Jackson of Schuylkill County, Amy Lichtenwalner of Lehigh County, Jody Hewitt of Chester County, and Leah Algler of Chester County.

*Homestead
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